<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>:

1 – 9. canceled.

10. (previously presented): A method of authenticating permission to access a system comprising:

receiving a request to enter the system, the request including at least a validation key;

determining whether the validation key is valid, wherein the validation key comprises a time stamp and said determining determines whether the time stamp comprises a predetermined format; and

allowing access to the system based on a determination of said determining.

11. (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein said system comprises a website.

12. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, further comprising decoding the validation key.

13. (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein said determining further determines whether the <u>time stamp</u> ~~timestamp~~ is stale.

14. (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein said determining further determines whether the <u>time stamp</u> ~~timestamp~~ is within a predetermined range.

15. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the validation key comprises a predetermined number, and said determining determines whether the predetermined number matches at least one number on a list of numbers.

16. (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the system provides information related to a digitally watermarked document.

17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, further comprising determining whether the validation key comprises a valid value.

18. canceled.

19. (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the request includes a URL and the validation key is appended to the URL.

20. (previously presented): A method of authenticating permission to access a system via the internet, said method comprising:

receiving a request to enter the system, the request including at least a validation key;

determining whether the validation key has been previously received; and

allowing access to the system based on a determination of said determining.

21. (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the validation key includes at least one of a date-time value, a pseudo-random number and a predetermined number.

22. (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein said determining comprises querying a database to determine if the validation key is stored therein.

23. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, further wherein the request comprises a URL identified from a <u>digital</u> ~~digitally~~ watermark-based system.

24 - 30. canceled.

31. (previously presented): A method of operating a computer server, the computer server to communicate with at least one user terminal, said method comprising:

receiving an identifier from the user terminal;

identifying a pointer associated with the identifier;

determining whether the pointer is a predetermined class, and

if not the predetermined class, communicating the pointer to the user terminal; and

if the predetermined class, generating a validation key, and communicating the pointer and validation key to the user terminal.

32. (original): The method according to claim 31, wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a URL, IP address and web address.

33. (original): The method according to claim 32, wherein the predetermined class comprises at least one of a restricted access website, exclusive access website, an entry-through-purchased documents website, a restricted URL, and an exclusive URL.

34. (original): The method according to claim 33, wherein the validation key comprises at least one of a time stamp, a predetermined number, and a pseudo-random number.

35. (original): The method according to claim 34, wherein said document identifier comprises an identifier extracted from a digitally watermarked document.

36. (previously presented): The method according to claim 35, further comprising encoding the validation key.

37. (original): The method according to claim 34, wherein said document identifier comprises an identifier extracted from a digitally watermarked document.

38. (previously presented): A computer server, said computer server to communicate with at least one user terminal, said computer server comprising:

  means for receiving an identifier from the user terminal;

  means for identifying a pointer associated with the identifier;

  means for determining whether the pointer is a predetermined class, and

    if not the predetermined class, means for communicating the pointer to the user terminal; and

    if the predetermined class, means for generating a validation key, and communicating the pointer and validation key to the user terminal.

39. (new): A method comprising:

  receiving a request to enter a computer system, the request including at least a validation key, wherein the validation key comprises at least one of a date stamp, time stamp or pseudo-random number, and wherein the validation key is received by the computer system over a communications network;

  determining whether the validation key has been previously received; and

  allowing access to the system based on a determination of said determining.

40. (new): A method comprising:

  receiving a first message from a user device;

  identifying a pointer associated with the first message;

  determining whether the pointer corresponds to a predetermined type, and

    if there is no correspondence to the predetermined type, communicating the pointer to the user device; and

    if there is at least some correspondence to the predetermined type, generating a second message, and communicating the pointer and second message to the user device.

41. (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the first message comprises an identifier.

42. (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the second message comprises a key.

43. (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the user device comprises a handheld device.

44. (new): The method of claim 43 wherein both acts of communicating utilize at least some wireless communication.

45. (new): The method of claim 40 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a URL and a website address.